

an indelibly positive impact on the Delta community and inspired those around him. He was a dear friend for whom I have the deepest respect and admiration. He will be deeply missed as Patti and I send our condolences to Joan and the Cortopassi family.

HONORING DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER JONATHAN MARSHALL FOR 34 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CABARRUS COUNTY

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 25, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jonathan Marshall for 34 years of service to Cabarrus County, including a decade of service as Deputy County Manager. I have seen his extraordinary leadership firsthand and how much he means to our community.

Mr. Marshall began his career with Cabarrus County in 1988 as a land-use planner and retires after more than three decades of service. Exemplary in his innate understanding of the relationship between people and land, he held the positions of Senior Planner, Planning Services Director, and Commerce Director before being named Deputy County Manager in December 2011.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Marshall has exhibited exceptional commitment and dedication to improving our community. He has led Cabarrus County through a time of unprecedented growth and his work will be felt for generations to come. Mr. Marshall's early efforts on the western area plan, for example, helped to sustain economic growth resulting from land development around Charlotte Motor Speedway and Concord Mills. He has also fostered a unique culture of collaboration between community stakeholders, and relationships between the County and municipalities have flourished under his extraordinary leadership.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Marshall for his years of exemplary service to Cabarrus County. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing he and his wife Debbie continued success and happiness as they move on to their next great adventure.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Jonathan Marshall upon his retirement as Deputy County Manager of Cabarrus County.

HONORING REV. DR. MELVIN T. JONES

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 25, 2022*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Doctor Melvin T. Jones as the dedicated Senior Pastor of the Union Missionary Baptist Church in Lansing, Michigan. He has stood at the forefront of fighting for justice since he was a child, and continues to do so throughout the Greater Lansing community today. He is a living testimony of using one's life to serve others.

At 78 years old, Pastor Jones is a model and inspiration for generations of citizens and faith leaders in our community. He has served at Union Missionary Baptist Church for 37 years, and is often referred to as "The Patriarch," because nothing happens in the Lansing community without seeking his wisdom, guidance, and support.

Every community has a guiding light, that someone who serves as the force to bring others together to drive change, and in the Lansing faith community, that someone is Pastor Melvin T. Jones. More than a decade ago, he became founder and Chairman of GLADE, currently known as ACTION of Greater Lansing, an interdenominational justice ministry of churches. Pastor Jones has served as President of The Greater Lansing Clergy Forum, Co-President of ACTION of Greater Lansing, and most recently helped shape the Assembly of Lansing Pastors to address gun violence.

He has received numerous awards and honors, both civic and national including an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Dallas Baptist Christian College, and he is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry degree program at Ashland Theological Seminary.

Pastor Jones has accomplished all of this while still devoting himself to his family: his wife Sallie of more than 50 years, and their five grown children.

As Pastor Jones prepares for retirement, he will be remembered for his faithful leadership that positively changed the direction of the city and impacted individuals and families for the better. He will be known for the inspiration and love he brought to Lansing, but also for the many pastoral leaders he mentored over many decades.

I have no doubt that even after retirement he will continue to be a voice for Lansing, and a strong supporter for those in need. While we will miss his voice in the house of worship, it is my great honor to record his many good works in so that they may live forever.

CELEBRATING WHITE OAK LIBRARY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 25, 2022*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The White Oak Library on 100 years of service to the community.

In 1922, the Lockport Woman's Club began a volunteer library and led a seven-year fight to solidify the library as a mainstay in the community. The library has persevered, putting the needs of the people first, changing locations and selling land to mirror the ever changing community landscape. A couple of location and name changes later, the Lockport Women's Club's vision has surpassed their initial dreams, with not one, but three libraries serving the greater Crest Hill, Lockport, and Romeoville communities.

The White Oak Library's mission is to be a community anchor while balancing innovation and tradition. The library leaders and staff have tirelessly met this mission with offerings ranging from Citizenship Prep and English-Second Language classes, STEM Fest, Grandparents Day, and various children, teen and adult programming. The thoughtful and

far-reaching goals of the White Oak Library are met every day.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the communities White Oak Library serves, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this milestone with best wishes for many more to come.

CONGRATULATING DR. NORIS PRICE

**HON. JODY B. HICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 25, 2022*

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Baldwin County Schools Superintendent Dr. Noris Price for being named the Georgia 2022 Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Price has more than 35 years of experience in public education. She has served as an Associate Superintendent for Clarke County Schools, a Principle in Fairfax, Virginia, and as an elementary school teacher in New York City.

Dr. Price was selected by the Georgia School Superintendents Association for her leadership ability, communication skills, and unwavering dedication to education.

During her tenure in Baldwin County, Dr. Price made tremendous strides to increase the high school graduation rate from 66 percent to 90 percent. She is also responsible for securing more than \$ eight million in grants for Baldwin County Schools.

This year brings additional recognition for Dr. Price's success and dedication as she was named a top four finalist for the 2022 U.S. National Superintendent of the Year award. These educators represent the bold and innovative work that is needed to ensure student success in communities across the country.

I am proud of Dr. Price's dedication to the future generation of Georgia's 10th Congressional District, and I wish her continued success.

HONORING THELMA LETT

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 25, 2022*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of a courageous Black woman from Brighton who would not sit down when faced with racism, hatred, and bigotry.

Thelma Lett did not grow up in Livingston County, but moved there from Detroit in 1976 with her husband. She was an avid churchgoer and involved in many community organizations, as she and her husband raised their two children, Paul and Keith.

But it was her involvement with the Livingston Diversity Council, then known as Livingston 2001, that drew headlines and propelled this quiet woman into the local spotlight.

Eager to champion the cause of diversity in the mostly white county, she joined the organization in 1988, its founding year—the same year a cross was burned on the property of a Black family in the county. She's credited with helping to grow the group and support for the cause with her dynamic, can-do style.

Here's what some former friends and colleagues had to say about Thelma: "A tremendous go-getter."

"You just had a smile on your face after talking to her," and,

"I would put a great deal of the success of the membership on her leadership."

But it's what SHE had to say to a group who showed up to protest a community forum that will go down in history. In 1994, members of the National Association for the Advancement of White People showed up at a forum in Howell and openly declared that they didn't want Black people living in their community.

Lett stood up, looked directly at the crowd, and calmly, but passionately informed them she would not be run out of her home.

"When I walk down the street, I'd like not to have cat calls or the N-word shouted at me," she said, staring into the eyes of men and women wearing hats emblazoned with "NAAWP" and "Anglo-Saxon."

She told the crowd how some of her family members served in the U.S. military, and were wounded in combat fighting for the American ideal that all people are created equal.

And when she called for some simple respect, saying "I give dignity and I want dignity," the crowd rocketed to its feet.

Lett never backed down from her devotion to diversity, continuing her activism and community involvement until her death at age 79. In fact, if you visit the Detroit Impact Youth Center on the city's west side, you'll find the Thelma Lett Library inside, a tribute to the many young people she taught to read and write.

And if you visit Howell, you'll find the Livingston Diversity Council continuing her work, inspired by the courage of her convictions, and still standing up to intolerance and hate.

Thelma Lett lived and died in Brighton, Michigan and made it abundantly clear her love for this country and all it stands for was far greater than the hatred she was shown. Brighton was her home, and today it is my honor in sharing her story.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NAMING OF AUTHERINE LUCY HALL ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 25, 2022*

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the naming of Autherine Lucy Hall on the campus of the University of Alabama. Autherine Lucy Foster was the first African-American student to integrate the University of Alabama in 1952.

After graduating from Miles College in 1952 with a degree in English, Autherine followed her aspirations of continuing her education by applying for graduate school at the University of Alabama. After sending in her initial request on September 4, 1952, she and her friend Pollie Anne Myers received letters welcoming them to the University of Alabama. However, upon submitting applications that indicated race, both women's admissions were revoked by university officials due to the university's "Whites only" policy. Once the community learned of both students not being admitted to

the university due to their race, two of the most prominent civil rights lawyers, Arthur Shores and Thurgood Marshall, began working on their behalf testing one of the most consequential Supreme Court cases in our history, *Brown v Board of Education of Topeka*. On June 28, 1955, just over a year after the *Brown* decision, U.S. District Judge Harlan Grooms heard their case ruling in favor of the women upholding the precedent of the Supreme Court and solidifying the legal eradication of the "separate but equal" policy.

In hopes of further discouraging Autherine and Pollie, the university hired private investigators to look into their backgrounds to find information that would ensure they could not attend. As a result of their efforts, Pollie was disqualified from admission, leaving Autherine to attend the university alone. Upon her attendance, Autherine experienced high-intensity adversity. She was denied dining and dormitory privileges and suffered multiple verbal and physical attacks from her White counterparts, which resulted in her being removed from the university by the Board of Trustees, claiming it was for her protection. With Autherine fearing for her life, Attorney Shores and Marshall stepped in on her behalf once again, filing an official complaint stating that the university had been complicit in permitting the crowd to intimidate and threaten Autherine. Unfortunately, they were unable to prove the university's role in the mob action, and despite withdrawing the complaint, the administration argued that through their actions, Autherine had defamed the school and its administration resulting in her expulsion.

Though she felt defeated at the moment, less than ten years later, her efforts to integrate the University of Alabama finally became a reality. Vivian Malone and James Hood enrolled at the University of Alabama in June 1963. Vivian went on to become the first African American to graduate from the University of Alabama, continuing the work of Autherine and opening the door for more students to follow in their footsteps. However, unbeknownst to her, it would take over thirty years for her own story to be completed at the University of Alabama.

Thirty-two years after her expulsion from the University of Alabama, she was asked to come back to the university as a guest speaker. With multiple faculty members advocating on her behalf to overturn her expulsion, she returned in 1989 to enroll as a student. Enrolling the same year as her daughter Grazia, they graduated together in 1992 to receive their respective graduate and undergraduate degrees. Ensuring that her legacy of bravery and tenacity lives on, the University of Alabama awarded Autherine with an honorary doctorate in 2019, a \$25,000 scholarship in her name and honored her with two land markers on campus—a historic marker in front of the newly named Autherine Lucy Hall and the Autherine Lucy Clock Tower.

On a personal note, as Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, it is a source of tremendous pride to celebrate the courage and sacrifice of Autherine Lucy Foster in integrating the University of Alabama. The naming of a campus building in her honor 70 years after she first enrolled in the university shows that delayed justice can lead to racial healing and reconciliation. It was because of her bravery and sheer audacity in the face of an incredible injustice that Black students attend

and graduate from the University of Alabama today. The university, the State of Alabama, and the nation owe Autherine Lucy Foster a debt of gratitude that can never truly be repaid. The naming of Autherine Lucy Hall will stand as a powerful reminder of the progress that can be achieved when this nation lives up to its best ideals of equality and justice for all.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary courage of Autherine Lucy Foster and the naming of Autherine Lucy Hall on the campus of the University of Alabama.

#### COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 JUAN ALEJANDRO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 25, 2022*

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Juan Alejandro, and congratulate him on his retirement from the Guam Army National Guard (GUARNG) after over 21 years of service to our island and nation.

Launching his military career in 1998, CW4 Alejandro first enlisted as a Military Occupational Skill (MOS) 25R, Audio, Visual Electronics Technician. He then served two years with the 3rd Psychological Operations Battalion in Fort Bragg, NC, and went on to complete both Warrant Officer Candidate School and the Army Aviation Flight Training Program. With a firm determination to build on his skills and expand his professional capacities, he later earned a bachelor's degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University alongside a minor in Management. Stepping into the field of aviation, CW4 Alejandro served as a Pilot in Command with the 1-25 Attack Aviation Battalion and 2-6 Cavalry Squadron, participated in three Operation Iraqi Freedom campaigns, and accumulated over 2,000 flight hours across 350 missions in combat.

Resigning from Active Duty in 2009, CW4 Alejandro joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as a Maintenance Test Pilot, Instructor Pilot, and Commander of the Pennsylvania Counterdrug Joint Task Force Aviation. Throughout his six-year tenure, CW4 Alejandro coordinated numerous local, state, and federal counterdrug operations responsible for over \$20 million in drug and illegal weapon seizures, facilitated the successful transition between aircraft models, and developed crucial training and maintenance programs for the State's integration of the Lakota helicopter.

In 2015, CW4 Alejandro brought his expertise to the GUARNG and has since been a critical asset in standing up its Army Aviation program. Taking on significant roles as a State Aviation Safety Officer and Standardization Pilot, he has provided valuable guidance and support to our unit and enabled them to attain nearly 2,000 hours of flight, pass a multitude of high-level inspections, and assist the community with the completion of 13 Search and Rescue missions.

Having earned a wealth of recognitions that include two Meritorious Service Medals, five